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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/814,238	04/01/2004	Riichi Katou	500.37972CC3	5410
20457	7590	04/27/2005	EXAMINER	
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP 1300 NORTH SEVENTEENTH STREET SUITE 1800 ARLINGTON, VA 22209-3873			BEAUCHAINE, MARK J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3653	

DATE MAILED: 04/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/814,238

Applicant(s)

KATOU ET AL.

Examiner

Mark J. Beauchaine

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 12 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9-11, 14 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/455,535.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/1/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Inventorship

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Specification

The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the term "reject box" (lines 14 and 15) is used twice such that said element is described as being located below itself.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 12, 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent Number 4,866,254 by Okayama et al (hereinafter Okayama). The bill processing apparatus disclosed by Okayama incorporates port 7, discriminator 11, bill boxes 14-16 and conveying means 21 that read on the Applicant's deposit/withdrawal port, discriminating unit, bill acceptor boxes and bill transport path, respectively. Furthermore, said apparatus incorporates reject box 12 that reads on the Applicant's reject box.

Although Okayama discloses bill handling section 5 that comprises one single housing, the components contained within said housing are arranged such that the port 7, discriminator 11 and reject box 12 are located in the upper section of the housing, and the bill boxes 14-16 are in the lower section of said housing. Said upper and lower

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sections of said housing read on the Applicant's upper and lower bill mechanisms, respectively. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to physically delineate the upper and lower housing sections of Okayama into two separate housing units to provide an effective means of assembling, disassembling and maintaining said bill processing apparatus.

Regarding claim 4, Okayama discloses accumulator 20 and separator 19 that read on the Applicant's accepting and delivering means, respectively.

Regarding claims 8 and 12, Okayama further discloses prestacker 17 for "temporarily storing bills (column 2, lines 60 plus).

Claims 2 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okayama as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Patent Number 5,405,131 by Zouzoulas (hereinafter Zouzoulas). Regarding claim 2, although Okayama discloses conveying means 21 that extends into the lower section of housing 5, it fails to disclose said conveying means as being openable. However, the incorporation of openable conveying means in currency processing apparatus to access said conveying means is well known in the art. Zouzoulas teaches a currency validator that conveys bills between transport base 125 and pivotable guide assembly 127. The gap formed between said base and assembly reads on the Applicant's transport path and the pivotable mounting of said assembly read on the Applicant's openable/closable feature. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the claimed invention to incorporate the base/assembly pathway configuration of

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Zouzoulas into the bill processing apparatus of Okayama to provide and effective means of accessing said pathway.

Regarding claim 7, Zouzoulas teaches removable cassette 200 that reads on the Applicant's detachable bill accepting box.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9-11, 14 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The following related art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Patent Number 4,510,381 by Fukatsu because of its recovery container 101.

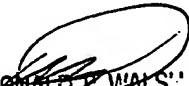
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark J. Beauchaine whose telephone number is (571)272-6934. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM through 5:00PM Mondays through Thursdays.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald P. Walsh can be reached on (571)272-6944. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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